

Australia. Against this last statement we have Dr. Sclater's authority, who (P.Z. S. 1877, p. 109) assigns one skin received from the Rev. Mr. Brown to *M. spilorrhoa*. As to the specimens from New Ireland and Duke-of-York Island being *M. luctuosa*, certainly this cannot be the case, as that species is strictly confined to Celebes; neither am I inclined to believe that it is *M. bicolor*.

MACROPYGIA AMBOINENSIS (Linn.), apud Ramsay, *l. c.* p. 203.

The birds thus named by Mr. Ramsay must be *M. doreya*, Bp., or *M. carteretia*, Bp., and not *M. amboinensis* (Linn.), which is peculiar to the Amboyna group.

GRALLÆ.

PARRA NOVÆ-GUINÆÆ, Ramsay, sp. nov., *l. c.* p. 298.

I have not seen the New-Guinea bird. Mr. Ramsay does not point out in what respect it differs from the Australian *Parra gallinacea*.

XXVIII. *Report on the Ornithological Acquisitions of the British Museum in 1878.*

IN the Annual Report on the British Museum presented to the House of Commons* we find among the "most important acquisitions" in the Zoological Department the following specially noticed:—

1. A selected series from the collection of African birds, formed by, and formerly in the possession of, R. B. Sharpe, Esq. This series includes those specimens only which were desiderata in the British Museum, and consists of 3444 named specimens, and 54 types. This purchase has been spread over a period of five years.

* Account "of the Income and Expenditure of the British Museum (Special Trust Funds), for the Financial Year ended the 31st day of March, 1879:"

And, "Return of the number of Persons admitted to visit the Museum in each Year from 1873 to 1878, both Years inclusive; together with a Statement of the Progress made in the Arrangement of the Collections, and an Account of Objects added to them in the year 1878."

2. A collection of 6650 eggs of birds, formed and presented by Messrs. F. Du Cane Godman and O. Salvin. It contains the materials collected by them in Europe, North Africa, and Central America, supplemented by specimens collected by the most trustworthy collectors, such as the late Mr. J. Wolley. All the specimens being well authenticated, and in a perfect state of preservation, this collection is one of the most valuable of its kind in existence.

3. Two valuable additions to the series of Groups of British Birds have been made by Theodore Walker, Esq. They illustrate the nesting-habits of the Skylark and the Great Crested Grebe, the parent birds and the nest being mounted with the natural surroundings.

The following is the general report upon the acquisitions in the class of Birds :—

The total number of acquisitions (exclusive of the collection of Birds' Eggs mentioned above) amounts to 2919, of which 159 were species entirely new to the collection, and 27 typical specimens. The following accessions may be specially mentioned :—

The typical series of the birds collected by the naturalists of the expedition sent by the Geographical Society of Bremen to Western Siberia and Turkestan ; the number of specimens amounts to 205 ; purchased.

Thirteen rare Flycatchers from Darjiling, among them five species new to the collection ; presented by L. Mandelli, Esq.

A collection of 308 specimens from Cochin China and Camboja, containing a new species of *Campophaga*, as well as numerous others new to the British Museum ; presented by M. E. Pierre, Director of the Botanic Gardens, Saigon.

The type of a new species of *Indicator* from Malacca (*I. malayanus*), purchased.

Seventy-eight specimens from Ceylon ; presented by Captain Vincent Legge, R.A.

The type of a new species of Scops Owl (*Scops minuta*), from Ceylon ; presented by G. Bligh, Esq.

A collection of 121 specimens made by the late Mr. E. C. Buxton in Western Java ; presented by Francis Nicholson, Esq.

Thirty-four Flycatchers from the Malayan archipelago and New Guinea, representing seventeen species previously desiderata to the collection ; presented by the Leyden Museum.

Eleven Flycatchers and Cuckoo Shrikes obtained by Dr. A. B. Meyer during his travels in the Moluccas and New Guinea ; purchased.

A series of the Hornbills of the L  was River, N.W. Borneo; collected by H.E. Governor Ussher, C.M.G.

Seventy-five specimens from Sarawak, collected by Mr. H. Everett, among them the type of *Ixidia paroticalis* ; purchased.

Forty-seven specimens from the Arfak Mountains, N.W. New Guinea, collected by M. L  on Laglaize ; among them thirteen specimens new to the collection ; purchased.

Specimens of a race of the Domestic Fowl from the Fiji Islands, which had reverted to the wild state ; presented by E. L. Layard, Esq., C.M.G.

Thirty-eight specimens from the Pelew Islands, among them 12 species new to the collection ; purchased.

Fourteen Flycatchers from various South-Sea Islands, new to the collection ; purchased of the Godeffroy Museum.

The collection of birds and their eggs made by the Rev. S. J. Whitmee in the Samoa, Ellice, Fiji, and Loyalty Islands ; purchased.

Eight specimens from the Azores, representing four species new to the collection ; presented by F. Du Cane Godman, Esq.

The remainder of the collection of African birds formed by, and formerly in the possession of, R. B. Sharpe, Esq. ; it consists of 900 specimens ; purchased.

A selected series from the collections made by Dr. Lucan and M. Petit in the Congo district, and containing six new species ; purchased.

Two specimens of a Plumed Guinea-fowl (*Numida eduardi*), from the coast of Mozambique ; presented by Lord Lilford.

A second consignment of the birds of Uruguay, consisting of 108 specimens ; sent by A. Peel, Esq. ; purchased.

Another consignment of the birds of Medellin, U. S. of Colombia, consisting of fifty specimens, sent by Mr. Salmon ; purchased.

XXIX.—*Notes on a 'Catalogue of the Accipitres in the British Museum' by R. Bowdler Sharpe (1874). By J. H. GURNEY.*

[Continued from p. 84.]

IN considering the genera which are most nearly related to the Milvine group in the restricted sense of that term, and which if it be taken in a wider sense may be included in it, I would in the first instance refer to the American genus *Elanoides*, the sole species of which (*E. furcatus*), though bearing a considerable resemblance in external appearance to the *Milvi* of the Old World, possesses differences of structure which indicate that its true position is that of an isolated form, as has been pointed out by Mr. Ridgway, at p. 180 of his 'Studies of the American Falconidæ.'

I may add, with reference to this species, that its immature stage of plumage, which is not noticed in Mr. Sharpe's work, is described at page 192 of vol. iii. of Messrs. Baird, Brewer, and Ridgway's 'History of North-American Birds.'

From *Elanoides furcatus* the transition is a natural one to the little *Naclerus rioucourei* of intertropical Africa, which at first sight appears to be a miniature species of *Elanoides*, but which is in reality more closely related to the genera *Elanus* and *Gampsonyx*.

One remarkable point of agreement between the three genera *Naclerus*, *Gampsonyx*, and *Elanus* is the absence of any groove on the under surface of the claws—a peculiarity which has been pointed out by Mr. Ridgway in the article above referred to.

It is somewhat curious that the genera *Naclerus* and *Gampsonyx*, like that of *Elanoides*, contain each but a single species.

In the case of *Gampsonyx*, as in that of *Elanoides*, the differences between the immature and adult stages of plumage, though not referred to by Mr. Sharpe, are very appreciable. An immature example of *G. swainsoni*, from the Upper Amazons, which is preserved in the Norwich Museum, differs from the adult bird in the following particulars, viz. :—All the